

# LANCE Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is LANCE?

LANCE is a group of four near real-time data systems serving the Land and Atmosphere science community.

## What is near real-time (NRT) data?

Near real-time is data that is available to users 3 hours or less after observation.

## What near real-time systems are a part of LANCE?

LANCE consists of the GES DISC and MODAPS Distributed Active Archive Centers and AMSR2 Science Investigator-led Processing System (SIPS) and OMI SIPS.

## What are standard products?

[Standard products](#) are products that are used for standard science processing and are generally available between 8-40 hours after observation.

## What is the difference between near real-time and standard products?

[Near real-time and standard products](#) differ in the amount of processing the raw data receives. Near real-time data is processed with different, less accurate ancillary data to make it available to users within 3 hours of observation. The main difference is in geolocation due to the use of predictive orbit information vs waiting for definitive orbit information.

## Where can I obtain standard products?

Each LANCE element provides standard products as well as near real-time products. Go to the [Standard Products](#) page for the data centers where the standard products are archived.

## What LANCE data products are available?

Currently AIRS, AMSR2, MLS, MODIS and OMI near real-time products are available under LANCE.

## Where do I go online to search and order LANCE data?

AIRS, AMSR2, MLS, MODIS and OMI near real-time data are available through the individual elements. Go to the [Near Real-Time Data](#) page for more information.

## Who can order LANCE data products?

All NASA Earth Observing System (EOS) mission data including LANCE data is freely available to the public.

## How long are LANCE near real-time data sets available?

The near real-time data sets stay for about 7 days from the time they are generated.

## How soon are LANCE near real-time data sets available?

The near real-time data that LANCE provides is available to users within 3 hours of observation.

## Do I need to register to access LANCE data?

Yes, registration is required to obtain LANCE data. Please visit the [Earthdata Login](#) to register for a username and password.

## Will there be a fee associated with accessing data?

Typically, there is no cost associated with accessing NASA Earth Science data. However, please refer to the [EOSDIS Data and Information Policy](#) for more information.

## Who do I contact for support with LANCE data?

For questions about LANCE or user registration, contact [Earthdata Support](#).

### Related

- [Near Real-Time Data Frequently Asked Questions](#) (EOSDIS Support Knowledge base)  
[faq](#)
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